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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/635,891	08/10/2000	Hisanori Kawakami	9319S-000152	6925
7590 02/14/2006			EXAMINER	
Harness Dickey & Pierce PLC			LEE, GUIYOUNG	
P O Box 828			ART UNIT	
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303			PAPER NUMBER	
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/635,891

Applicant(s)

KAWAKAMI, HISANORI

Examiner

Guiyoung Lee

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Prelim./Amdt.*

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 01/30/2006.
2. Claims 1-29 are pending.

### *Response to Amendment*

3. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. After further search and consideration, a new ground of rejection is made in view of Lee et al. and Evanicky et al. (US 5,831,697). The new ground of rejection follows:

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US 6,295,105 B1) in view of Evanicky et al. (US 5,831,697).

Re claims 1, 3, 13, 15 and 29: Lee discloses a side-lighting surface light source device and a method for manufacturing the side-lighting surface light source device having a light source, a reflector member (124 in Fig. 2), a light guide plate member (120), and a fixing member (128), wherein the reflector member comprises opposed first and second end portions extending in substantially the same direction (the end portions of 124), the first end portion extends to a greater distance than the second end portion (See Fig. 6), the light guide plate member (120) is

arranged in a position that allows the light ray from the light source to enter through the end thereof, and has a light exiting surface that allows the incident light ray to exit in a directivity, the fixing member (128) comprises a fixing body having a support surface (128 a) and a reflector holder for holding the reflector member, and the reflector member (124) directly or indirectly supports at least the light guide plate member on the first end portion thereof (see Fig. 2). Lee further discloses a lug portion integral with the reflector holder securing the reflector member in a clamp state therebetween (the portion of 128 in Fig. 2 that projects out of the reflector holder 128). Lee does not disclose that the second end portion of the reflector member is spaced from the light guide plate member. However, Evanicky discloses a side-lighting device comprising a light source (52), a reflector member (42), a light guide plate member (56), and a fixing member (45a). Further, Evanicky discloses the reflector member has opposed first and second portions and the first end portion extends to a greater distance than the second end portion (See 42 in Fig. 7). Furthermore, Evanicky discloses the second end portion of the reflector member is spaced apart from the light guide plate member (see the gap 150 in Fig. 7). In addition, Evanicky teaches “the gap is present since the door assembly is removable (Col. 10, lines 27-28)”. Making a gap or a space between the end portion of the reflector and the light guide plate member is an obvious matter of engineering choice to adjust parts of the side-lighting surface device internally as Evanicky taught above. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lee’s reflector member to include a gap or a space between the second end of the reflector member and the light guide plate member because such modification is an obvious matter of engineering choice, as taught above.

Re claims 2, 4-6, 14, and 16-18: Lee discloses the light guide plate member is secured in a clamped state between the fixing body and the first end portion of the reflector member (See 120 and 124 in Fig. 2).

Re claims 7-11, 19-23, and 25-28: Lee discloses a reflective sheet (122), an optical sheet (116), and an electro-optical display unit (112).

Re claims 12 and 24: Lee discloses a brass reflector member and SUS304 fixing member (col. 3, lines 63+).

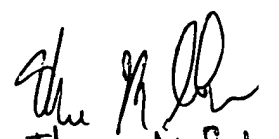
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guiyoung Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LGY

  
Thomas M. Sember  
Primary Examiner